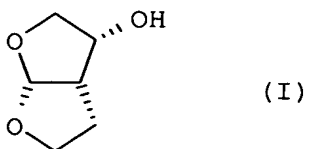


**ABSTRACT**

A method of synthesizing (3R,3aS,6aR)-3-hydroxyhexahydrofuro[2,3-b]furan (I), and related compounds, in high yield and high enantiomeric selectivity is disclosed.



Also disclosed is a method of manufacturing (5S)-5-(benzyloxymethyl)-5H-furan-2-one.